

DEATH OF MEREDITH

1831]

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would have spoken to me; but as I had no interpreter with me, and am pretty sure that he was in the same state. I thought it best to make my bow.¹

He seems, however, before he left to have had more than one audience of the Pasha, to have succeeded in engaging his attention 'by the readiness or patience of his replies,' and to have had the honour of being consulted as to a scheme his Highness was considering for the introduction of Parliamentary institutions into his dominions. The traveller pointed out the immediate difficulties that occurred to him, and the Pasha listened in silence; but at the next leve'e he welcomed his visitor with a favouring smile and beckoned to him to advance : —

'God is great *I*' said Mehemet Ali to the traveller; 'you are a wise man—Allah! Keriro., but you spit pearls. Nevertheless I will have a Parliament, and I will have as many Parliaments as the King of England himself. See here!' So saying, his Highness produced two lists of names. . . . 'See here!' said he, 'here are my parliaments; but I have made up my mind, to prevent inconvenience, to elect them myself.'²

Meredith arrived in Cairo at the end of June, and the two friends were about to start on their homeward journey when a calamity befell which was a terrible shock to Disraeli at the time and threw a cloud over the whole of his sister's remaining life. Meredith was stricken with smallpox, and, after a short illness, died on the 19th of July.

To Isaac D'Israeli.

CAJBO,
July 20th,
1831.

MY DEAREST FATHER,

If you were not a great philosopher as well as a good man, I do not think that I could summon courage to communicate to you the terrible intelligence which is now to be imparted by this trembling pen; but I have such confidence in your wisdom as well as in your virtue, that it is your assistance

² *Vindication of the English Constitution*, p.
103.
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